

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 3–18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, and 28–38 are currently pending in this application. Independent claims 1, 10, 14, 20, 21, 26, and 35 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 39, and to add proper antecedent basis where necessary. Dependent claims 23 and 25 have been amended based on the amendments made to independent claim 21. Dependent claims 2, 22, 24, 27, and 39 have been canceled. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claim 39 contains allowable subject matter.

Telephonic Interview

The Examiner is thanked for granting telephonic interviews with the Applicants' representative on October 10, 2007; November 5, 2007; and November 6, 2007. During the November 6, 2007 interview, the Examiner indicated that adding the subject matter that was indicated as being allowable in claim 39 to all of the pending independent claims (i.e., claims 1, 10, 14, 20, 21, 26, and 35) should be sufficient to overcome the currently cited references.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1–18 and 20–38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,725,331 to Kedem (hereinafter “Kedem”).

Because the independent claims (i.e., claims 1, 10, 14, 20, 21, 26, and 35) have been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 39 which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable, the independent claims should be allowable. Therefore, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 1–18 and 20–38 is respectfully requested.


Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner’s convenience.

Applicant: Stager et al.
Application No.: 10/772,643

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1, 3-18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, and 28-38, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Stager et al.

By 
Steven J. Gelman
Registration No. 41,034

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.
United Plaza, Suite 1600
30 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-6400
Facsimile: (215) 568-6499
SJG/mnr